

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1368175-0

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: October 8, 1951

FROM : SAC, BOSTON

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON
Consultant - Applicant

Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(Bufile 121-33180)

Reference on the above-captioned individual is made to Bureau letter dated September 21, 1951.

The following investigation was conducted at Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Miss KATHLEEN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary to the President of Williams College, confirmed Mr. JOHNSON'S employment at the college as a professor of History from July 1, 1926 to June 30, 1950.

Miss O'CONNELL who has known the applicant for ten years, JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER, President of Williams College, who has known the applicant for eighteen years, ROBERT R. BROOKS, Dean of Williams College, who has known the applicant over ten years, ROBERT J. ALLEN, Professor of English, who has known the applicant for over ten years; all depict Mr. JOHNSON as a loyal American citizen.

The above individuals stated as well as being former fellow associates of Mr. JOHNSON they considered themselves neighbors of his in that Williamstown is a small community. They said that they have been frequent visitors to his home in Williamstown and confirmed his residence there.

Mr. PHILIP WALSH, owner of the House of Walsh, a men's clothing store in Williamstown, stated he has known Mr. JOHNSON as a customer and a neighbor for over fifteen years. He said he has had frequent discussions with Mr. JOHNSON and has read several articles written by Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. WALSH stated in the fifteen years or so he has known Mr. JOHNSON the latter has always impressed him as a person who is sincerely loyal to the United States Government.

GEORGE ROYALL, Chief of Police at Williamstown, stated he has known Mr. JOHNSON for over fifteen years as a neighbor and a friend. He has had frequent discussions with Mr. JOHNSON concerning national and international affairs and stated in his opinion Mr. JOHNSON is absolutely loyal to the United States Government.

The files of the Boston Office contain no information pertaining to the loyalty of Mr. JOHNSON.

-RUC-

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EX-21

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK
OCT. 11, 1951

BOSTON
WASHINGTON FIELD DEFERRED

JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON, ☐, LGE. REBULET TO NY SEPT. TWENTYONE
LAST. JAMES T. SHOTWELL, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CARNEGIE
ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE, ADVISED THAT APPLICANT
WAS ELECTED ^{CEIP} ~~TO~~ PRESIDENT OF ~~CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL~~
~~PEACE~~ ON MAY ELEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY. HE STATED THAT WHEN
JOHNSON'S NAME WAS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS A
NOMINEE HE WAS PRACTICALLY AN UNKNOWN. HE WAS NOMINATED
AND SUPPORTED BY HARVEY H. BUNDY, ^{THIRTY} ~~SEVENTY~~ STATE ST., BOSTON.
BOSTON REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW BUNDY. SHOTWELL ALSO ADVISED
THAT APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY A LECTURER AT THE WAR COLLEGE,
PENTAGON BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. WASHINGTON FIELD HANDLE.

SCHEIDT

CC: BUREAU ✓

JCO:DMK (#12)
121-12567

121-33180 - ✓
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50 JAN 24 1952

121-33180

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**TO :** DIRECTOR, FBI (121-33180)**DATE:** October 23, 1951**FROM :** SAC, BOSTON**SUBJECT:** JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON
Consultant - ApplicantWashington, D.C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

b7E

Reference is made to New York teletype to Boston dated October 11, 1951.

Mr. HARVEY H. BUNDY, attorney and associate of the law firm of Choate, Hall and Stewart, 30 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts, stated he has been acquainted with JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON for a period of fifteen years. Mr. BUNDY advised that he and JOHN FOSTER DULLES, of the State Department, were members of a committee chosen to nominate a president for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and that he, BUNDY, nominated and supported JOHNSON for the presidency, an office to which JOHNSON was elected on May 11, 1950.

Mr. BUNDY confided he has the utmost confidence in JOHNSON's loyalty to the United States, as evidenced by his nomination and support of JOHNSON for the presidency of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. RUC.

121-2903

cc - New York

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JAN 24 1952

121 - 33180

2

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (121-33180)

DATE: 10/30/51

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON

LGE

b7E

Rebulet to NY dated 9/21/51.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
 504 West 17th Street, New York City

Miss EMMA B. SAYRE, Assistant to President JOHNSON, advised that JOHNSON was elected President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace by the Trustees on May 11, 1950, and assumed office on July 1, 1950. She said that she was not acquainted with the applicant prior to July 1950, but knows that he has an excellent reputation and was highly regarded to be selected for his current position. She said that since July 1950 she has had considerable contact with JOHNSON and that he has impressed her as a completely loyal and patriotic citizen.

JAMES T. SHOTWELL, President Emeritus, advised that JOHNSON was elected to the position of President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in May 1950. He said that JOHNSON was not known to the Board of Trustees and that he was backed by HARVEY H. BUNDY, of Boston, Mass. It was SHOTWELL'S understanding that JOHN FOSTER DULLES selected BUNDY to head the Nomination Committee for the selection of the President and that JOHNSON and BUNDY were well known to one another and had been active in the World Peace Foundation and that BUNDY personally favored JOHNSON'S nomination. He said that apparently BUNDY was able to influence DULLES in this matter and that between them they were able to carry JOHNSON'S election. He pointed out that at the election, the trustees, who number 28, were not familiar with JOHNSON and that BUNDY and DULLES both spoke in his behalf. He added that since JOHNSON'S election he has performed a commendable job and that the trustees are well satisfied with the election.

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cc - Washington Field (info)

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Letter to Director
NY 121-12567

Mr. SHOTWELL went over the names of the trustees with the reporting agent and advised that PHILIP JESSUP, JOHN FOSTER DULLES, and GEORGE A. FINCH, Washington, D.C. are the only members who in her opinion would be in a position to comment on JOHNSON. No inquiry was made regarding the relationship between JESSUP and the applicant as SHOTWELL was visibly upset about the then pending Congressional inquiry regarding JESSUP.

Mr. SHOTWELL further advised that the Foundation, and particularly DULLES, is quite sensitive regarding the ALGER HISS affair and that he is convinced that DULLES made sufficient inquiry into the background and loyalty of the applicant before supporting him.

He said personally he is confident that JOHNSON is completely loyal to the United States. He said that he has had considerable contact with the applicant in acquainting him with the work of the Foundation and said that JOHNSON'S views have been definitely anti-Communist.

In the event the instant investigation is converted to a F.F.I., it is suggested that information relating to the background of JOHNSON'S election not be included in the report as this is furnished only for the information of the Bureau and, further, SHOTWELL pointed out that the election was held in secret.

United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue, New York City

Mr. ROBERT J. DAVIS, Personnel Director, advised that JOHNSON served as Deputy U. S. Representative on the Interior Committee at the General Assembly from June 1948 to November 1948. He said that he did not know the applicant too well, but he understood that JOHNSON had disagreed heartily with the views of FREDERICK SCHUMAN, a Professor at Williams College in his political views. SCHUMAN'S ideas, according to Mr. DAVIS, have been a matter of controversy.

Letter to Director
NY 121-12567

Mr. DAVIS suggested that the following persons would likely be in a position to comment on JOHNSON:

PAUL TAYLOR Bureau of U.N. Affairs Washington, DC
HARDING BARCROFT Bureau of U.N. Affairs Washington, DC
JAMES HYDE, JOHN ROSS and RICHARD WINSLOW

All of whom are en route to Paris, France, but may be contacted at a later date in Washington, D.C.

The following, likewise, would be in a position to comment on JOHNSON:

GEORGE KENNAN, currently with the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, New Jersey.

JOHN DREIER, American Representative on the American States, Washington, D.C.

DEAN RUSK, Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs currently in Washington, D.C.

Mr. WARREN J. AUSTIN, Chief United States Representative to the United States advised that he first became acquainted with JOHNSON in 1916, when JOHNSON was a young boy in Chicago with his family. He said that he has had no personal contact with JOHNSON from 1916 until 1948 since the latter date has had numerous contacts with him, officially and socially. He added that he has the highest personal regard for JOHNSON and knows of no reason why his loyalty to the United States could be questioned. He asserted that JOHNSON is "100% loyal to the Government of the United States.

Residence

400 West 119th Street -
New York

Mr. MARTIN LOWE, General Manager, advised that the applicant resided at this address from October 3, 1950 to July 1951 in apartment 12T. He said JOHNSON left to get larger quarters so that he could have his family with him. He stated from what conversations he had with the applicant he would definitely consider him a loyal citizen.

Letter to Director
NY 121-12567

Miss GERTRUDE HESS, Office Employee, advised that she recalls the applicant and stated that he had conducted himself as a loyal citizen.

Mr. EVERETT BOOTH, Apartment 12-S, advised that he was fairly well acquainted with the applicant during the period the latter resided at this address. He stated that in his opinion the applicant is completely loyal to the government. He added that the applicant had moved to Connecticut, but that he did not know his address.

Mrs. ARTHUR JONES, Apartment 12 R, advised that he has resided at this address for a number of years but said that she did not know the applicant well enough to comment on his loyalty.

The files of the New York Office reflect that the applicant's name was included among the names of a group of individuals as candidates for trustees of the Institute of Pacific Relations. This information is contained on a letter originating from the office of the I.P.R. dated December 29, 1950 and the election was to be held on February 2, 1951. There is no information contained in reference file to the effect that the applicant was selected as a trustee. (NY file 100-17808 1A 270).

The files of the New York Office also reflect that the applicant was interviewed by agents of the Boston Office in the ALGER HISS Investigation. A review of this file indicates that JOHNSON had considered HISS a substantial loyal citizen and also that HISS recommended a firm post war policy against Soviet Russia. JOHNSON indicated a willingness to cooperate with the Bureau in the HISS investigation and gave names of other individuals who would be in a better position, than he, JOHNSON, to give information regarding HISS and the "Woodstock Typewriter".

The files of this office contain no other information which could be identified with JOHNSON,

Letter to Director
NY 121-12567

The files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation and the Bureau of Criminal Identification, New York City Police Department, contain no record of the applicant.

The following security informants who are acquainted with the general Communist Party affairs in the New York City area advised that applicant is unknown to them,

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Inasmuch as this preliminary inquiry did not develop any substantial disloyal information no further inquiry is being contemplated by the New York Office UACB.

The New York Office is designating a copy of this letter to the Washington Field Office in the event that this inquiry is converted. Washington Field may desire to interview individuals mentioned by ROBERT J. DAVIS. RUC.

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SAC, Washington Field

November 9, 1951

Director, FBI (121-33180)

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

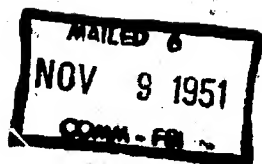
JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON

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Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Laughlin	_____
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Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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11-15-51

WASHINGTON FROM WASH FIELD

15

11:30

DIRECTOR

DEFERRED

JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON, LGE. BUFILE ONE TWO ONE DASH THREE THREE ONE EIGHT ZERO. RUC LETTER WILL BE SUBMITTED NOV FIFTEEN NEXT. REASON FOR DELAY WAS STATE DEPT SECURITY DIVISION FILE CHECK.

HOOD

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (121-33180)

DATE: November 13, 1951

FROM : *WFO* WFO (121-20864)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON
Consultant - Applicant
[REDACTED]
Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

b7E

Rebulet to New York dated September 21, 1951.

The following investigation was conducted on
October 1-6, 9, 12, 15, and November 8, 1951.

The [REDACTED] personnel file of
the applicant contained only his personal history statement,
a photostatic copy of which has been furnished to the Bureau
and information obtained from various record checks. There
was no derogatory information and nothing in the file in
addition to that being utilized in this investigation.

b7E

The [REDACTED] Security Division,
had no identifiable information on the applicant.

The State Department personnel file on JOHNSON
reflected that he was employed December 16, 1942, in the
Office of Inter-American Affairs and was promoted to Chief
of the Division of International Security Affairs in 1945.
He was transferred to position of Special Assistant, Policy
Planning Staff, Office of the Secretary of State, on July 1,
1947, and resigned this position in August, 1947, to return
to Williams College. The file also reflected that he was
appointed as a Consultant without compensation in the Office
of the United Nations Affairs, Office of the Director, in
February, 1948. He was given an accepted appointment as
Consultant without compensation in the Office of the Assistant
Secretary of Public Affairs, effective November 17, 1949, and
terminated this position on November 19, 1949, because of
completion of assignment.

JOHNSON'S State Department personnel file contained
a memorandum to Mr. HISS from Mr. ROSS dated March 2, 1945,
which proposed a promotion for JOHNSON consisting of a two
grade job from P-6 to P-8 as Chief of the Security Division.
There was a notation on this memo written in longhand pencil

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and signed "ALGER." This notation indicated that HISS very heartily agreed to the promotion and explained that "JOE came in at a low level for patriotic reasons and should not suffer thereby. More important he is the best qualified officer I know of for the post of Acting Chief of Internal Security and the Government shouldn't suffer because of his initial patriotic ignoring of grade."

There was no information of a disloyal nature concerning JOHNSON in his State Department personnel file.

Ambassador JOHN C. DREIER of the State Department said that he first knew of the applicant at Harvard University during the late 1920's but that his first official contact with JOHNSON was in the State Department in 1942 or 1943. Mr. DREIER said that JOHNSON worked on confidential matters during the war with the State Department and subsequent to their initial contact in 1942 or 1943, a reorganization in the State Department placed JOHNSON under his, DREIER'S, supervision. Mr. DREIER advised that he worked closely with JOHNSON until 1945, and that he has had occasional social contact with him. Mr. DREIER stated that he has the highest regard for JOHNSON'S integrity, loyalty and trustworthiness. Mr. DREIER said that the only contact of JOHNSON whose loyalty has been questioned, was Mr. ALGER HISS, and that this contact came about when HISS was, for a period of time, Head of the Branch of the State Department that JOHNSON worked in. Mr. DREIER said that he believed the only relationship was on an official capacity.

Mr. DURWARD V. SANDIFER, Office of United Nation Affairs, Department of State, who had official contact with the applicant from 1942 to 1945, and worked on a very close basis with him from 1945 to 1947, said that JOHNSON was confident, reliable and was a good American whose loyalty had never been questioned. Mr. SANDIFER said that the only contact of JOHNSON, whose loyalty is questioned, is Mr. ALGER HISS, who supervised JOHNSON during about 1945, and 1946. Mr. SANDIFER said that he had never known JOHNSON to have any contact with HISS outside the State Department and JOHNSON had come under his supervision through an organization in the State Department which had caused a lot of shuffling of jobs.

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Mr. WILLIAM SANDERS, United Nations Division of the State Department, first met the applicant in 1944, and worked with him until he returned to Williams College. He said that he has no question whatsoever about JOHNSON'S loyalty to the United States nor the loyalty of any of his associations. Mr. SANDERS stated that he has also known JOHNSON socially, has become well acquainted and has had a good chance to observe him. Mr. SANDERS concluded by saying that he has a very high opinion of JOHNSON'S patriotism, loyalty and integrity. Mr. SANDERS also stated that he believes that Ambassador JOHN DREIER had brought the applicant into the State Department during the war.

A file of JOHNSON at the Military District of Washington reflects that a request was made of MDW for partial background investigation on JOHNSON in 1950, to determine his suitability for a position with the National War College. However, JOHNSON was unable to accept the appointment and the MDW investigation was terminated prior to its completion. The investigation disclosed nothing derogatory regarding JOHNSON'S loyalty to the United States.

The International Index to Periodicals, the Readers Guide and the Public Affairs Information Service were all checked at the Library of Congress to locate various articles written by the applicant.

This search in the Reference Room of the Library of Congress disclosed a current biography of JOHNSON in a book entitled "Whose News and Why" edited by ANNA ROTHE. This biography sets out the general outline of JOHNSON'S background with regard to his life and international relations work. It indicated that while serving "on detail" to the United Nations in 1946, JOHNSON participated in the work of a Sub-Committee on the Regulations of Armaments and represented the United States on a fourteen nation Sub-Committee of the Political and Security Committee of the Assembly. In meetings of this latter group in December, 1946, JOHNSON exchanged arguments with ANDREI Y. VISHINSKY of the Soviet Union and debates on an Australian resolution objecting to what Australia considered the misuse of "Big Power Veto Rights."

COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY
ANNA ROTHE EMPLOYED BY ABOVE
(EMPL. CARD)

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WFO 121-20864

This biography also sets out that in an address at Ohio State University in 1947, JOHNSON discussed the efforts of the United Nations Military Staff Committee to set up Armed Forces for the United Nations commenting that the ~~work~~ ^{had} could have been delayed by the Soviet representatives.

The biography of JOHNSON also told of his discussion of the root of Russian-American misunderstanding which appeared in the October 11, 1947, issue of "Nation" under the title "What Keeps Them Apart?" According to the biography JOHNSON cited the difficulties of what he called "fish-bowl diplomacy," the inexperience of both the United States and Russia as world leaders and the non-friendly attitude of Russian Diplomats to all nations not within the Soviet orbit, which made it impossible to build up a bank of good will such as existed with other nations.

The biography disclosed that JOHNSON is a trustee of the World Peace Foundation since 1948, and has been a member of the Editorial Board of this magazine "International Organization."

The February, 1949, issue of "International Organization," a publication put out by the "World Peace Foundation," contained an article by JOHNSON entitled "The Soviet Union, The United States and International Security." In this article JOHNSON set out the United States security policy saying that its concept is preservation while the Soviet leaders believe Soviet "security" policy is essentially aggressive. This article sets out differences of a general nature and specific issues between the USSR and the United States as discussed in the United Nations. In discussing these issues JOHNSON pointed out that the United States flexibility and willingness to compromise as compared to the USSR rigidity and non-compromising attitude.

In 1949, issues of "International Organization" JOHNSON was listed as one of fifteen board of trustees of the World Peace Foundation as was ALGER HISS. JOHNSON was also listed as one of the Board of Editors of the publication of International Organization published by the World Peace Foundation.

WFO 121-20864

The applicant was interviewed on January 25, 1949, by the Boston Office in connection with the activities of ALGER HISS. In this interview JOHNSON said that he first met HISS in the latter part of 1943 or the first part of 1944, in an official capacity, and that HISS became his supervisor, in December, 1944. JOHNSON advised that he and HISS were in constant close association just prior to the Yalta Conference and the drafting of the "Proposed Declaration on Liberated Areas." He said that HISS and himself worked closely together on the United States Policy regarding international control of atomic energy in 1946. JOHNSON said that he was in regular close contact with HISS until he, JOHNSON, left the State Department in January, 1947, and has since met HISS occasionally. He said that he had been a visitor at the HISS home and had met HISS' wife on about three occasions during the time that he knew HISS. JOHNSON knew of nothing derogatory regarding HISS' loyalty.

Records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities contained the Institute of Pacific Relations annual report of 1950, dated March, 1951. This report lists JOSEPH E. JOHNSON, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a member of the IPR Board of Trustees.

Records of the Passport Division, Department of State, reflected that JOHNSON was issued passport #346254 on September 11, 1950. On application for this passport dated September 1, 1950, he stated that he proposed to depart from New York on October 30, 1950, for England, France, Switzerland, possibly Norway and the western zone of Germany for the purpose of business, visit to Paris Office of the Carnegie Endowment to lecture and visit.

Passport #405331 was issued to JOHNSON on January 1, 1927, for purpose of proposed travel to England, France, Italy and Switzerland returning within five months. He stated he had resided in China and Japan from December, 1916 to April, 1917, and in England, France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria from July, 1922 to August, 1923, having previously been included in his mother's passport issued in 1922, for which no number was listed.

Passport #331606 was issued to JOHNSON on December 12, 1930, and amended January 2, 1931, to include his wife, CATHERINE ABBOT. They proposed to travel to England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy for the purpose of travel and study and proposed to return within one year.

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Diplomatic passport #160 was issued to JOHNSON on February 15, 1945, for travel to Mexico as technical officer, United States Delegation, Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace for the State Department. The validity of passport was limited to travel in Mexico, but on February 20, 1946, passport was amended to include travel to France.

Passport file contained no information bearing on JOHNSON'S loyalty.

The file on JOHNSON at the State Department, Security Division, contained no derogatory information.

Files of the Civil Service Commission, Investigations Division, contained no information in addition to that already utilized in this investigation.

Records of the Montgomery County Credit Bureau, Silver Spring, Maryland, and the Credit Bureau, 1221 G Street, N.W., reflected no information bearing on JOHNSON'S loyalty.

Files of G-2, Department of the Army; Office of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force; Montgomery County Police Department, Rockville, Maryland; Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., had no record on applicant under the name JOSEPH E. JOHNSON.

Confidential informants

[redacted] whose identities are known to Bureau, advised that they are not acquainted with applicant.

No full field investigation is being conducted on JOHNSON due to the fact that no substantive disloyal information was discovered during the course of the preliminary inquiry. RUC.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

DATE: December 3, 1951

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

TO: Director

2430 K Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

FROM: John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON
Consultant - Applicant

Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Conversion

121-33180

Refer to your Case Serial Number 56108 wherein you requested that an investigation be conducted concerning the above-captioned applicant under the provisions of Executive Order 9835. It is noted that your files reflect that the applicant stated that he contributed funds for an ambulance to the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade or the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in 1938. He stated that he made this contribution in the memory of a childhood friend who had been killed while fighting for the Spanish Loyalists. It is also noted that on his application for employment with your agency the applicant listed membership in the American Institute of Pacific Relations in 1951.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been cited by the Attorney General under Executive Order 9835. The Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been cited as "In 1937-1938, the Communist Party threw itself wholeheartedly into the campaign for the support of the Spanish Loyalist cause, recruiting men and organizing multifarious so-called relief organizations. Among these was the above Communist front organization," by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report March 29, 1944, pages 82 and 125.

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The American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations, has been cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 168.

Mr. Harvey H. Bundy, 30 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts, advised that he has been acquainted with Joseph Esrey Johnson for a period of fifteen years. Mr. Bundy said that he and John Foster Dulles, of the State Department, were members of a committee chosen to nominate a president for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and that he, Bundy, nominated and supported Johnson for the presidency, an office to which Johnson was elected on May 11, 1950. Mr. Bundy stated that he has the utmost confidence in the applicant's loyalty to this country.

Mr. James T. Shotwell, president emeritus of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, advised that he has had considerable contact with the applicant in acquainting Johnson with the work of the foundation and that through these contacts he is convinced that the applicant is loyal to this country and definitely anti-Communist.

Mr. Warren J. Austin, Chief, U. S. Representative to the United Nations, advised that he first became acquainted with Johnson in 1916, when the applicant was a young boy in Chicago. He said that he had no personal contact with the applicant from 1916 to 1948; but that since 1948, he has had numerous professional and social contacts with Johnson. He asserted that he has the highest personal regard for Johnson and that Johnson is "100 per cent loyal to the government of the United States."

Ambassador John G. Dreier of the State Department advised that he has been acquainted with the applicant for a number of years. He said that Johnson worked on confidential matters during the war with the State Department and that in 1942 or 1943 a reorganization in the State Department placed the applicant under his personal supervision. Mr. Dreier advised that he worked closely with Johnson until 1945, and

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

that he has had occasional social contact with him since then. He stated that the only contact of the applicant whose loyalty has been questioned was Mr. Alger Hiss, and that this contact came about when Hiss was, for a period of time, the head of the branch of the State Department in which Johnson worked. Mr. Dreier said that he believed that the relationship between Alger Hiss and the applicant was purely a business contact. He recommended the applicant as a loyal citizen.

Mr. Durward V. Sandifer, Office of United Nations Affairs, Department of State, who had official contact with the applicant from 1942 through 1947, said that the applicant was a good American whose loyalty has never been questioned. Mr. Sandifer stated that the only contact of Johnson's whose loyalty is questioned is Mr. Alger Hiss, who supervised the applicant during 1945 and 1946. He stated that he had never known the applicant to have any contact with Alger Hiss outside the State Department.

The Reference Room of the Library of Congress contains a current biography of the applicant in a book entitled "Whose News and Why" edited by Anna Rothe. This biography, which sets out the general outline of the applicant's background, reflects that Johnson participated in the work of a Sub-Committee on the Regulations of Armaments and represented the United States on a fourteen nation Sub-Committee of the Political and Security Committee of the Assembly. In meetings of this latter group in December, 1946, Johnson exchanged arguments and debates with Andrei Y. Vishinsky of the Soviet Union on an Australian resolution pertaining to "Big Power Veto Rights."

Joseph Esrey Johnson was interviewed in 1949 by representatives of this Bureau during an investigation of the activities of Alger Hiss. In this interview Johnson stated that he first met Hiss in the latter part of 1943 or first part of 1944 in an official capacity, and that Hiss became his supervisor in December, 1944. Mr. Johnson stated that he and Hiss were in constant close association just prior

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to the Yalta conference. He stated that he and Hiss also worked closely together on the United States policy concerning international control of atomic energy in 1946. He stated that he met Hiss occasionally after he left the State Department in January, 1947, and that he had been a visitor at the Hiss home and had met Mrs. Hiss on about three occasions during the time that he knew Alger Hiss. He advised that he could furnish nothing derogatory concerning Hiss' loyalty and exhibited a cooperative and friendly attitude when interviewed.

Various present and former associates, references and neighbors in Massachusetts, New York and the Washington, D. C. area were interviewed, and they all advised that they consider the applicant to be extremely loyal to this country.

Confidential informants familiar with Communist Party activities in New York and the Washington, D. C. area were unacquainted with the applicant.

The files of the Credit Bureau of Washington, D. C. and the Montgomery County Credit Bureau, Silver Spring, Maryland, contain no information bearing upon the applicant's loyalty.

The records of the Montgomery County Police Department, Rockville, Maryland, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., the Bureau of Criminal Identification, New York, New York Police Department and the Williamston, Massachusetts Police Department contain no information pertaining to the applicant.

The central files of this Bureau and other government agencies which conduct intelligence investigations contain no information pertaining to the loyalty of the applicant.

This information, obtained during an appropriate inquiry and not during a full field loyalty investigation, is furnished to you in the event you should desire to reconsider this matter. This confidential information should not be disseminated to unauthorized persons or agencies and this Bureau makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval. No further action is contemplated in this matter in the absence of a specific request.

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Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 9835,
a copy of this letter is being furnished to the Civil Service
Commission for its consideration.

cc Mr. James E. Hatcher
Chief, Investigations Division
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Washington, D. C.

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. V. P. KEAY *VPK*
 FROM : C. W. Burke *CWB*
 SUBJECT: JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON
 CONSULTANT - APPLICANT

DATE: February 26, 1952

WASHINGTON, D. C.
 LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
 121-33180

Tolson _____
 Ladd _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Clegg _____
 Glavin _____
 Harbo _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Egan _____
 Gurnea _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Nease _____

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It will be recalled that [] requested a loyalty investigation on this individual by pointing out that he had contributed to the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. By letter dated December 3, 1951, [] was furnished results of an inquiry conducted by the Bureau, which did not however constitute a full-field investigation.

[] has now advised that Johnson has been granted security approval as a Consultant with []

ACTION:

This is submitted for information.

CWB:lw

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